

# About Us

The Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology (CWCIT) seeks to be at the forefront of the discussion about the relationship between globalization and the Catholic Church's future as a truly worldwide Church.

Housed in the Department of Catholic Studies at DePaul University, CWCIT focuses especially but not exclusively on the Church in the global South (Asia, Africa, and Latin America). We seek to create channels of collaboration and friendship among scholars from the North and South; to that end, each year we host visiting scholars from the global South. In addition to being mutually beneficial and enriching, this intercultural intercambio, like the work of CWCIT itself, promotes tolerance and genuine bonds of solidarity between people whose particular cultural histories may be in conflict.

## Mission Statement

CWCIT was founded by DePaul University in 2008 in order to produce research that will serve the Church and the academy. To fulfill the mission, it has paid special attention to the World Church that has emerged since the Second Vatican Council and its growth in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. While its focus has been on the present global communion of faith, it also attends to historical, theological, and cultural questions that will contribute to a fuller understanding of Catholicism and the dialogue of cultures today.



**In 1900, only 25 percent of Catholics lived in the global South:  
Latin America, Asia, and Africa.  
By the year 2000,  
that number had shifted to nearly 70 percent.**

## Highlights of CWCIT Events

CWCIT offers numerous lectures and other events for students, faculty/staff, and the broader community, including its annual conference, World Catholicism Week, which brings together numerous international scholars each April. The following are highlights of past events:

### Muslim-Catholic Dialogue Series (2015-2016)

Focusing on Africa, the Middle East, and the Philippines, this series brought together Muslim and Catholic leaders of interfaith dialogue to discuss the theological resources—as well as practical, on-the-ground strategies—that they have found fruitful in regions of the world where this dialogue can truly mean the difference between life and death.

### International Colloquium

#### on the Future of Catholicism in Africa (December 2015)

Held in Enugu, Nigeria, this gathering brought nearly two dozen African, North American, and European scholars into dialogue. It was the Center's third event abroad and first ever in Africa, held in collaboration with the Spiritan International School of Theology and Peaceland College of Education, both in Nigeria.

### Fragile World: Ecology and the Church (April 2015)

Held in anticipation of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, this World Catholicism Week event featured speakers such as Michael A. Perry, OFM, minister general of the Franciscans, as well as other activists, theologians, and scientists from Honduras, Kenya, the Philippines, and other parts of the globe.

### New World Pope: Pope Francis and the Future of the Church (February 2014)

Honoring the first year of Francis' pontificate, this event's speakers included Rabbi Abraham Skorka, coauthor with Jorge Bergoglio of *On Heaven and Earth*; Francesca Ambrogetti and Sergio Rubin, journalists and coauthors of *Pope Francis: His Life in His Own Words*; and Andrea Tornielli, Vatican journalist and author of *Francis: Pope of a New World*.

## Distinguished Speakers



### Rev. Laurenti Magesa

Pioneering author & scholar in African Catholicism  
Professor, Hekima University College & Tangaza University College (Nairobi, Kenya)



### Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ

Anti-death penalty advocate  
Author, *Dead Man Walking*



### Jon Sobrino, SJ

Liberation theologian & author  
Director, Centro Monseñor Romero  
Universidad Centroamericana (San Salvador, El Salvador)



### Bishop Paride Taban

Founder, Holy Trinity Peace Village-Kuron (South Sudan)  
Recipient, 2013 U.N. Sergio Vieira de Mello Peace Prize



### Cardinal K. A. Turkson

President, Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace  
Archbishop Emeritus, Cape Coast (Ghana)



### Maria Voce

President, Focolare Movement

## What We Do

- Host visiting scholars each year from the global South
- Publish an annual book series, Studies in World Catholicism
- Host an annual international conference, World Catholicism Week
- Present other events (lectures, roundtables, etc.) throughout the year
- Collaborate with institutions in the global South such as the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) & St. Vincent School of Theology (Manila, Philippines)



Celebrating CWCIT's first event in Africa, the International Colloquium on the Future of African Catholicism, held in December 2015 in Enugu, Nigeria

## Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology

Catholicism's center of gravity has shifted from North to South. Studying the visible movement of ecclesial tectonic plates becomes a mandate for new scholarship and a creative impetus for new forms of social engagement.

### Contact Us

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## Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology

A leading center of research & reflection  
on the Church in the global South



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